

# Building the University Infrastructure that Supports Ontario Students and Communities

## Infrastructure at the Centre of Ontario's Regions

University infrastructure is vital for students, communities and local businesses across Ontario. University campus facilities and spaces, such as community centres, gyms, theatres and stadiums bring people together and enhance daily life for many Ontarians.



### Creating Jobs and Fueling Local Economic Growth

Investing in university infrastructure creates jobs and stimulates the local economy. Modernization projects can help provide employment opportunities and support surrounding businesses, which fuels long-term economic growth in the province.

### Driving Innovation

University facilities and spaces drive innovation and support local businesses. They provide small businesses with resources to test new ideas and scale vital operations, while state-of-the-art classrooms prepare students for in-demand jobs. University research in these spaces leads to breakthroughs that help benefit all Ontarians.

## How Infrastructure at Ontario Universities is Funded

Ontario universities' infrastructure maintenance and capital renewal are funded by universities with support from the provincial government's Facilities Renewal Program (FRP).

The FRP helps universities renew and modernize their campuses through repairs, renovations and upgrades to existing facilities, such as roof repairs, heating and ventilation system upgrades, and mechanical and electrical system upgrades.

Investing in Ontario universities' capital renewal will support:



Economic development by creating good jobs among skilled workers in local communities across the province.



Improved health and safety and experience for students and campus community members.



Energy efficiency projects that have a strong return on investment for universities.

**\$485M**

is the amount that universities spent to keep all facilities in current condition in 2023-24, of which **\$287M** was spent on FRP-eligible projects, meaning universities spend almost three times what the government invests to repair and maintain this portion of facilities.

**\$7.7B**

is the capital renewal backlog in 2024.

**\$96M**

is the amount that the government provided for the FRP in 2023-24.

**56%**

is the provincial funding that universities receive, despite having **more than 85%** of the postsecondary sector's total capital renewal backlog.

## Why Maintained and Modernized Infrastructure is Important

Ontario's future economic growth depends on continuing to invest in a properly funded university system.



Without proper investment in maintaining and modernizing Ontario's university infrastructure, deferred maintenance backlogs will continue to grow, leading to outdated facilities and limiting student success in learning, research and innovation.

Modernizing and retrofitting university facilities and spaces will ensure the health and safety of these spaces, and support students as they learn in environments that can better prepare them for in-demand careers, to drive innovation and to help meet the needs that fuel Ontario's economy.